

CENTRAL POWERS WINNERS, THINKS VON LUDENDORFF

Will Not Say He Regards Bolshevik Offer as True Peace Proposal

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 3.—General von Ludendorff, right hand man of Field Marshal von Hindenburg, is quoted by a correspondent of the Vienna Neue Freie Presse as making the prediction recently at German headquarters that the war will not end in a draw, but be decided in favor of the central powers.

The correspondent, says the Vienna despatch, obtained this expression from von Ludendorff in conversations with him during a visit to headquarters, where he also talked with von Hindenburg.

"It appears the Russians are the first to be inclined for peace," General von Ludendorff said. "I will not say that I regard the Bolshevik manifestation as a peace offer," he continued. "There must be a secure government for this purpose, one which possesses power to enforce internally and externally the results of the negotiations with us. Of course, we can conclude an armistice with Russia at any time as soon as we have the assurance that it will be maintained. A general armistice, however, will be difficult to achieve."

General von Ludendorff expressed belief that a general armistice would interrupt submarine activity and allow the entente to improve its positions, while on the other hand no supplies would reach the central powers. Therefore, he thought such an armistice should be a brief one, as otherwise the military situation would suffer.

General von Ludendorff considered the Russian revolution not a mere piece of luck for the central powers, but a natural result of the war operations.

"Modern war," said the general, "is a war of peoples, not of armies, and a war ends now when an enemy people is defeated. There are no decisive battles, as in former wars. The battles merely have an indirect influence on the whole national system, inducing decay and collapse."

The correspondent says he gained the impression that Field Marshal von Hindenburg and General von Ludendorff desire a peace which will create conditions of security and stability as far as possible, one which will bring with it secure frontiers and free economic activities on land and sea.

With reference to the Russian army, Field Marshal von Hindenburg gave to the correspondent his opinion that no more military activity on a large scale could be expected from it. He thought it possible, however, adds the correspondent, that "some despot or other, like Grand Duke Nicholas, might seize power and incite the weary Russian army to a final effort."

Regarding the situation on the western front, Field Marshal von Hindenburg said the successful employment of the German policy of elastic defense continued, and that when occasionally sections of mortars or smoke blackened debris were left to their opponents for the purpose of saving human material it was of no importance. Occasional local setbacks must be taken into account as an inevitable consequence of carrying through great offensives at other points.

Regarding the supreme war council of the allies, the field marshal said with a smile: "Such institutions are always a sign of incapacity and helplessness. When they are at their wits' end a war council is established."

INVENTION BRINGS MAN FREEDOM

Crane Has Process for Extracting Oil From Shale Deposits

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 14.—On the report of Dr. David T. Day, consulting chemist of the bureau of mines, that the new process of distilling oil from shale invented by A. G. Crane, who was convicted for frauds in connection with a life insurance, Governor Emmet Boyle, of Nevada, through the intervention of Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane, has paroled, pardoned and restored to citizenship the inventor.

Crane while in prison offered his invention gratis to the federal government for war program. Lane sent Dr. Day to make an investigation. He reported that a plant built at a cost of \$50,000 to work the shale deposits near Elko, Nev., would pay for itself in a year by the extraction of oil, wax and ammonia.

Dr. Day is in this city, where he met G. A. Bartlett of Nevada, William C. Ralston, the well known mining man of New York, formerly of San Francisco, and A. M. Boyle, brother of Governor Boyle, who have interested themselves in a corporation with a capital of \$2,500,000 to handle Crane's process.

Ralston says Crane has made one of the country's great wartime inventions in the supply of oil and gasoline and the inventor is a genius.

Mining men of Nevada stated a few weeks ago that the deposits of shale near Elko worked by Crane's process would produce greater wealth than the mines of the state.

CLEVELAND NAMES FIRST CITY MANAGER

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—East Cleveland, Cleveland suburb of 30,000, announced the appointment of C. M. Osborn, 42, as its first city manager. Osborn will take office January 1, when the new form of government goes into effect.

U.S. TO BREAK WITH RUSSIA IF HUN PLOTS EXIST

Immediate Halting of Supplies and Credits to Follow: Diplomats to Withdraw

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—Official confirmation of the news from London that German staff officers are in Petrograd acting as military advisers of the Lenin faction probably will be followed promptly by action on the part of the United States and the allies definitely to place the Bolshevik regime in the list of Germany's allies.

If the Germans are their all doubt as to the purpose of the Bolsheviks is removed and the diplomats will be obliged to withdraw to a neutral capital. Such a development undoubtedly would be followed by immediate cancellation of all orders for supplies for Russia, both in the United States and Japan. Several cargoes from the United States are now on the way to Vladivostok, but these can be diverted by wireless orders, and it has been understood that their delivery would be contingent upon evidence that they would not fall into unfriendly hands.

Serious Situation.

With Germans openly advising Lenin and his followers, it is assumed that efforts will be made to carry Russia into the position of an active ally of the central powers. This might produce a most serious situation by making available to Germany the vast stores of food, oil and cotton of Russia, and even though the Teutons found it impossible to convert the disorganized country into an active military ally, the million or more German, Austrian and Turkish prisoners held in Russia would be freed for service with the Teutonic armies.

Ever since the overturning of the Kerensky government military strategists here have been anticipating such a condition as exists today in Russia. This is one of the principal problems with which the inter-allied war council in Paris is expected to deal. Without being bound by any special instructions, Col. House and his military adviser, Gen. Bliss, will cooperate with the representatives of the entente powers in framing some policy to meet the situation.

Not Against People. Strong hope is felt that an attempt by Lenin to turn Russia over to Germany will meet with powerful resistance at home. Any action decided upon by the allies will be directed at the Petrograd extremists and not at the people of Russia.

Reports that come from the Don Cossack country that the hetman, Gen. Kaledines, may be the master of the situation through his control of the food which is necessary to maintain any military force in the north of Russia, have encouraged military experts here to believe that in spite of the aid of his German advisers Lenin and his faction may be brought to terms.

UNIQUE WATER FIGHT IMPENDS ON BALKAN LAKE

(By Associated Press.) KORTI, Albania.—A naval battle between French and German warships is imminent, which, when it occurs, will not be recorded in any official communiqué, though it will be, in a way, one of the unique naval engagements of the war.

Lake Ochrida is a large body of fresh water lying a few miles north of here, at the point where Albania, Serbia and Macedonia touch. It is 40 miles long and 20 miles across, with towering mountains running around it. The north end of the lake is held by the Germans, and the south end by the Entente Allies. It has been the scene of the latest hard fighting, when the Entente troops made a forward drive of thirty miles from Pagodol, at the south end, to Padahojia far up toward the north end.

With the Germans holding the north end of the lake, they did not confine their operations to the land. A miniature flotilla soon made its appearance with oil-burning launches about 15 feet long, each mounting one gun forward. This mosquito fleet soon became a real menace, for it darted to the south end of the lake at night and bombed the small villages along the south shore, held by the French, Russians and Serbs. The headquarters of General Tarnakoff, of the Russian division operating with General Serrail, was in one of these villages.

The French soon took steps to counteract this menace. A small steel craft, thirty feet long, was brought overland from the French fleet at Saloniki. This mounted two guns, one forward and one aft. With

it came a commander and crew of French sailors. This was soon followed by a second 30-foot boat mounting two guns, with its equipment of officers and crew.

Thus two miniature fleets find themselves face to face on Lake Ochrida, with a battle not far off. The French have the advantage of larger ships carrying more guns, but the Germans have the advantage in number of craft, their flotilla consisting of six or seven 15-foot boats mounting one gun each.

It seemed strange as we went along a mountain road today, to see the uniforms of French officers and sailors at a point so remote from the sea. They were in a camion on the way to their naval base at the south end of the lake. The commander, Lieutenant Dutot, stopped for a moment and spoke enthusiastically of his little fleet.

"In bringing the boats from Saloniki," he said, "we took out the engine, so that the hulls weighed only three tons. This made reasonably easy going on the camions. There was no mishap, the first boat is launched, with her engine in place and guns mounted, and the second will soon follow. And then," he added with a laugh, "we'll see who will do the bombardment."

When operations will begin is not certain, but plans are so far advanced that a fight is looked for almost any time now. With such mosquito craft it might be considered a toy battle if it were not for the reality of the warfare, with real naval boats manned by real sailors of the French and German navies, fighting with as much determination as on the deck of 20,000-ton dreadnaughts.

KEEP UP THE CROP SLOGAN FOR SUGAR BEET FARMER

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Keep up the sugar crop, is a slogan issued by the department of agriculture as a war emergency appeal to sugar beet farmers. The sugar requirements of this country and allies the next year or more make it imperative, according to the department, that the sugar production be maintained at the present level at least, or greater acreage if stocks of seed available for 1918 planting permit. The official advice is to adopt efficiency methods, to adhere to crop rotation methods, and to avoid planting an abnormally large acreage of competing crops at the expense of beet acreage.

PRIORITY OF LABOR PLANNED TO RUSH WAR WORK

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Priority of labor as a step toward promoting the efficiency of war industries is in sight.

Walter S. Gifford, director of the council of national defense, announces that already the council is at work on a survey of the nation's labor resources with a view to insuring a system whereby labor may be moved about as essential war industries demand.

The survey will take some time, but at its conclusion it is expected the plan will be put into operation without delay.

American industry has accomplished a remarkable change in complexion in the past six months.

Reports to the war industries board and the council of national defense show that American industry is now approximately 80 per cent efficient in war work. This means that American factories are meeting about 80 per cent of the needs of the United States government in its conduct of the war. Industrial experts here predict that January 1 will show

AMERICAN INDUSTRY MEETING EVERY NEED OF THE NATION

There is a feeling of pride among experts here on America's rapid industrial mobilization. It has meant a complete change in the output of numberless factories. Other factories have increased their output and made it partially war work.

The plan of the council of national defense to curb non-essential industries does not sound the death knell of industries not engaged in war work, it is declared.

COINCE A WEEK, THE GERMAN BUTTER RATION

COPENHAGEN, Denmark.—The butter ration in Greater Berlin has been reduced for the winter to 50 grams—approximately one ounce weekly.

Fifty grams of margarine also are granted, but the newspapers point out that war margarine is principally water and has slight nutritive value.

Food Administrator von Waldow has announced that a special department will be organized to enlighten the people on the food situation. His announcement evoked the comment from one newspaper that "the stomach cannot read."

TO STOP LEAKAGE OF SUGAR FROM DOMINION

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 10.—Canadian customs officials at Windsor have received instruction from Ottawa that the order in council issued some time ago, forbidding the exportation of sugar from Canada, is to be strictly enforced. The order has never been applied to the carrying out of sugar in small quantities by individuals for home use, and large amounts have been brought to Detroit in this manner. The military police at the border ports have now been ordered to assist the Canadian customs officials in putting an end to the practice, and ferryboat employees have been instructed to watch for persons carrying packages of sugar.

WAR DEMANDS HAVE CUT DOWN PETROLEUM STOCKS

WASHINGTON, D. C.—War demands cut down petroleum stocks in the United States to 9,779,000 barrels during the first nine months of this year. The department of the interior estimates that there was an increase of 17 per cent in consumption, as compared with the same period of 1916.

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